

Residents help police find assault suspect

By Harry Harris
Tribune Staff Writer

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The alertness of residents led to the arrest Wednesday of a Hayward sign painter, on parole from the California Youth Authority, in the vicious beating of an 18-year-old Swiss national who was picking flowers, Oakland police said.

The victim, Betina Benthaus, who is vacationing in Oakland, told police that while she was picking flowers in the 17000 block of Broadway Terrace around 11 a.m. she passed a man who was putting up real estate signs on utility poles.

He suddenly grabbed her from behind, she said, brandishing a knife and saying he was going to kill her.

Benthaus said she resisted, and during the struggle suffered a cut on her lip and was repeatedly hit in the head with the man's fist, losing consciousness.

Residents, roused by her screams, saw the man dragging her up a driveway. When they confronted him, he told them she had just fallen.

While neighbors helped revive Benthaus, the man fled in a new pickup truck. Neighbors noted the name of the Fremont dealership, where police learned who had purchased the truck.

With that information, Hayward police went to a realty-sign firm on Diablo Street and arrested David Misch, 21, of Berry Street in Hayward.

According to police he has served terms in the CYA for rape, assault and burglary, and last September was released from the Atascadero State Hospital.

He is being held in the Oakland jail for investigation of assault with a deadly weapon.

SAT DEC 9 1989

Parolee arrested in missing car of stabbing victim

By Andy Jokelson
The Tribune

HAYWARD — A man who is suspected of killing a woman in her home near here was arrested yesterday in Oakland while driving her missing car, investigators said.

David Emery Misch, recently paroled from prison, was the only person in Margaret Narcisa Ball's silver 1981 Mazda, said Alameda County sheriff's Lt. Dean Hess.

The car was stopped by Oakland police at about 6 a.m. as Misch, 28, of Hayward, was leaving the Farm House Motel on MacArthur Boulevard in Oakland after the Sheriff's Department alerted law enforcement agencies to be on the lookout for the car, said Hess.

He described Misch as a "casual acquaintance" of Ball, "nothing intimate," and that the motive for the Thursday morning killing was apparently robbery.

Hess said Misch has a history of "numerous crimes of violence," including assault with a deadly weapon. The state Department of Corrections reported that Misch was released Nov. 17 on parole from San Quentin Prison after serving seven months of a 16-month term for burglary. He previously spent time in state prison for assault with a deadly weapon, said the Department of Corrections.

"He doesn't want to talk to

us," said Hess of Misch, who was booked for investigation of murder and grand theft. Ball's auto was stolen from outside her Lowell Avenue apartment near here, said Hess.

Ball, 36, was stabbed several times in the chest and elsewhere probably between 9 a.m. and noon Thursday, said Hess. Her body was found in her living room by an 11-year-old daughter of her boyfriend, who shared the residence, Hess said.

Recent parolee arrested in grisly murder

WEB DEC 13 1989
HAYWARD —

David E. Misch, a 28-year-old parolee out of prison for less than a month, was arraigned yesterday for the grisly murder of a San Leandro woman last week.

Misch is due in court today to enter a plea to the murder of Margaret Ball, 36, who was found stabbed and strangled in her Lowell Avenue home by her boyfriend's daughter.

Misch, who has served time in prison for assault and two burglaries, was arrested Friday in Oakland driving Ball's car. Also taken in the apparent robbery were food stamps and pocket change, said Sheriff's Lt. Dean Hess.